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Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains an account of new developments and the assistance accorded to Mongolia by the Secretariat and relevant United Nations bodies since the issuance of the previous report on this subject (A/65/136). The year 2012 marks the twentieth anniversary of the address given on 25 September 1992 by the President of Mongolia to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, in which he declared Mongolia to be a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Mongolia has continued to receive international recognition for its nuclear-weapon-free status and to promote other nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. Mongolia has continued to seek the institutionalization of its nuclear-weapon-free status, and in that regard has undertaken discussions with the five nuclear-weapon States, namely, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, towards the conclusion of a legal instrument.

The Government and people of Mongolia have received assistance from various United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes, including the Department of Political Affairs, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Bank.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/70, entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status", the General Assembly invited Member States to continue to cooperate with Mongolia in taking the necessary measures to consolidate and strengthen Mongolia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders, its independent foreign policy, its economic security and its ecological balance, as well as its nuclear-weapon-free status. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to provide assistance to Mongolia in taking the aforementioned necessary measures, and requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and is based on inputs submitted by relevant United Nations entities and Mongolia.

2. The year 2012 marks the twentieth anniversary of the address given on 25 September 1992 by the President of Mongolia to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, in which he declared Mongolia to be a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

II. Activities related to Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status

3. Mongolia maintained its vigorous efforts to seek international recognition for, and the institutionalization of, its nuclear-weapon-free status by working to conclude a legal instrument on its status with the five nuclear-weapon States. Initial consultations included Mongolia's two immediate neighbours, China and the Russian Federation. However, subsequent discussions on a single legal instrument were widened to include the other three nuclear-weapon States, namely, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

4. During his meetings with the President and the Prime Minister of Mongolia, the Secretary-General reaffirmed the support of the United Nations for the recognition and institutionalization of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status.

5. Mongolia continued to work towards the international recognition of its status:

(a) At the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the representatives of Mongolia met with the representatives of the five nuclear-weapon States to promote and strengthen Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and, in particular, to present to the representatives of France, the United Kingdom and the United States, for their consideration, the draft treaty on the country's nuclear-weapon-free status and the protocol (2007) thereto. After additional consultations in 2011 and 2012, Mongolia and the five nuclear-weapon States agreed to consider the issue at a specific joint meeting;

(b) At that joint meeting, held in May 2012, during the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Mongolia and the five nuclear-weapon States presented their respective positions and considered the possible

format and content of additional security assurances. They decided to resume further consultations in late 2012.

6. Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status has continued to receive international recognition, especially through references at bilateral and multilateral meetings:

(a) A joint communiqué issued by Mongolia and the Russian Federation on 14 December 2010 regarding the outcome of the dialogue between their Heads of Government indicated that the Russian side had expressed its readiness to continue, together with other nuclear-weapon States, the negotiations with the Mongolian side on the issue of institutionalizing Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. In a joint statement dated 31 May 2011, on the visit of the President of Mongolia to the Russian Federation, the two countries underlined that the Russian side, together with other members of the five nuclear-weapon States, was prepared to continue to examine the proposal of Mongolia to strengthen further its nuclear-weapon-free status;

(b) A joint statement dated 16 June 2011 by Mongolia and the United States, on the visit of the President of Mongolia to the United States, pointed out that the United States recognized and supported the Mongolian nuclear initiative and applauded Mongolia's nuclear-weapons-free status;

(c) A joint statement dated 16 June 2011 by China and Mongolia, on the establishment of a strategic partnership between the two countries, indicated that the Chinese side confirmed its support for the efforts of the Mongolian side to secure by political and diplomatic means Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, its national security and legitimate interests;

(d) The Declaration of the Third Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, held in Istanbul on 8 June 2010, supported Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status as contributing to security- and confidence-building measures in the region. This was reaffirmed at the Sixth Meeting of the Special Working Group and the Senior Officials Committee of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, held in Istanbul from 22 to 29 February 2012, with a call for Mongolia's status to be institutionalized;

(e) On 27 April 2012, in Vienna, Mongolia co-organized and participated in the First Preparatory Meeting of the Third Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones;

(f) The Final Document of the Sixteenth Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Bali from 23 to 27 May 2011, stated that "the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones [...] as well as Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free-status are positive steps and important measures towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation". The Ministers expressed their support for the measures taken by Mongolia to strengthen its status. They particularly welcomed the talks by Mongolia with its two neighbours to conclude an international instrument institutionalizing the status;

(g) The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons submitted a working paper (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.28) at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The paper stated that the Group considered that the further institutionalization of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status would be an important step towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime in that region.

7. Mongolia continued to work towards the normative consolidation and implementation of its status:

(a) In 2009, the President of Mongolia set up a working group to draft a new national security concept for Mongolia. The concept, adopted by Parliament on 15 July 2010, addressed the security issues of security of existence, economic security, internal security, human security, environmental security and information security. The concept included such principles as civil participation, human rights and freedoms, rule of law, human security and development;

(b) Mongolia's new foreign policy concept, reviewed and adopted by Parliament on 10 February 2011, provided that Mongolia should refrain from joining military alliances, from allowing the use of its territory or airspace against any other country, and from allowing the stationing of foreign troops or weapons, including nuclear or any other type of weapons of mass destruction, on its territory;

(c) In December 2011 and January 2012, the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Parliament respectively considered the implementation of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and approved further measures to promote and consolidate that status;

(d) Mongolia continues to pay particular attention to the implementation of the Law of Mongolia on its nuclear-weapon-free status, adopted on 3 February 2000. Since the country has a vast territory and shares long borders with its two neighbours, border control and management have become a serious challenge at a time of increased concerns over transnational crimes, including trafficking in nuclear-related items. A project proposal on improving the technical capacity of export and import controls for nuclear and other radioactive materials was submitted in 2007 to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004);

(e) Under the memorandum of understanding signed in October 2007 between Mongolia and the United States, the United States Department of Energy continued to provide equipment, materials and training for use at border posts. Radioactivity detection equipment was installed at 13 border posts and 2 additional posts are to be equipped in 2012;

(f) In order to improve coordination in combating the spread of weapons of mass destruction, Mongolia hosted a proliferation security initiative workshop and table top exercise with the United States in Ulaanbaatar on 22 and 23 February 2011.

8. Mongolia also continued to promote awareness regarding its security and nuclear-weapon-free status and to advance other nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives:

(a) In February 2011, the coordinator of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status participated in a meeting of the Monterey Non-proliferation Strategy Group on the promises and prospects of a weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in the Middle East. In April 2011, Mongolia organized a round-table discussion with the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna on the theme "Promoting further nuclear-weapon-

free zones: challenges and opportunities". One of the discussions at the round table was the promotion of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including the establishing of such zones in the Middle East and in North-East Asia. Mongolia informed the participants of its contacts with the nuclear-weapon States on the issue of broader security assurances other than those contained in the 2000 joint statement. Participants expressed support for Mongolia's efforts to institutionalize its status. Similarly, in November 2011, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) hosted a forum on the experience of possible relevance to the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Mongolia presented an overview of its experience in promoting the concept and practice of a single-State nuclear-weapon-free zone;

(b) From 16 to 18 May 2011, IAEA and the Nuclear Energy Agency of Mongolia co-organized a workshop in Ulaanbaatar on the legal framework for nuclear safety, security, safeguards and civil liability. The workshop examined the relevant international legal instruments and fundamental elements pertaining to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and considered how Mongolia's legal framework might be developed to effectively implement the provisions of these instruments;

(c) In May 2011, Mongolia organized a scientific conference on the theme "New geopolitical reality: view of scholars and researchers", at which the issues considered were related to Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and how changing geopolitical realities could affect it;

(d) Mongolia participated in the following two IAEA training courses: (i) an international training course on implementing State systems of accounting for, and control of, nuclear material for States with small quantities protocols, held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States, from 17 to 21 October 2011; and (ii) a regional training course, held in Tokai, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010, on State systems of accounting for, and control of, nuclear material for countries from the Far East, South-East Asia and the Pacific. Both courses highlighted the specific status of Mongolia and emphasized the importance of nuclear-weapon-free zones, of associated safeguards obligations and of nuclear non-proliferation commitments to international security.

III. Non-nuclear aspects of Mongolia's international security

9. Mongolia's national security concept defines economic independence and ecologically balanced development as vital national interests. It also defines various objectives in order to ensure economic security, including the creation of a multi-pillar efficient economic structure; the implementation of balanced investment policies; the reinforcement of financial sector security; and the implementation of efficient policies regarding energy and mineral resources, foreign trade and integration. The concept states that the basic precondition for achieving and maintaining the country's economic security is the designing and adoption of a sustainable development model that ensures economic independence and an environment for promoting human security and peaceful living. However, Mongolia's economy remains heavily dependent on the import of oil and consumer goods, while the country's main export is raw materials, making it heavily dependent on exchange rate fluctuations. Moreover, Mongolia's status as a landlocked country and physical remoteness from world markets adversely affect its economy.

10. Mongolia invested in exploiting its vast natural resources, attracting foreign investments and opening significant opportunities and challenges. Economic growth grew to 17.3 per cent in 2011, due largely to high copper prices and an increase in coal production. However, the dependence of Mongolia's economy on mining revenues exposes the country to the volatility of commodity prices. Mongolia faces challenges similar to other extractive industry-based economies, including "resource curse" or the so-called "Dutch disease". Those issues were discussed at an international conference organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ulaanbaatar in October 2011.

11. Mitigating the challenges associated with growth requires concerted actions on the part of the Government, political parties, the business sector, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the media. To that end, the Mongolia Economic Forum, an independent, non-governmental organization, was established to improve and accelerate the development of Mongolia. Meetings of the Forum were held on 8 and 9 February 2010, 2 and 3 March 2011 and 5 and 6 March 2012. The Forum is of significant value for the establishment of business networking opportunities and the promotion of cooperation and understanding among the more than 1,000 participants. Recently, the Forum, in cooperation with the Economic Research Institute, conducted a study in 2012 and issued a report on the major risks that Mongolia faces and their interlinkages.

12. On 17 April 2012, participants at a round-table discussion on the risks for Mongolia's economic security exchanged views on economic security, the prevention and reduction of major risks, budget and financial security, the natural resources sector, the current investment climate and related risks. Additionally, on 26 April, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Security and Foreign Policy held a meeting to discuss economic security issues.

13. Over the past two years, Mongolia has undertaken concrete practical measures to ensure its economic security. In order to introduce highly developed technologies and value-added products in its economy, Mongolia adopted in 2011 a programme for the development of high technology-based industries. In March 2012, during a State visit by the President of Mongolia to Germany, an agreement was reached on the implementation of a project on the construction of a plant for producing liquid fuel from coal.

14. Mongolia is strongly committed to ensuring human security and promoting development. The national security concept identifies human security as one of fundamental pillars of Mongolia's national security. The basis of human security is defined as a healthy and safe living environment, security of residency and food, and protection from crime.

15. Human trafficking is becoming one of the new challenges facing Mongolia. The first case of trafficking in persons was registered in 2000. In recent years, according to studies conducted by the Gender Equality Centre, a non-governmental organization, over 130 persons have been victims of human trafficking annually. Over 50 per cent of them are between 18 and 26 years of age, while 11 per cent are girls under the age of 18. Although measures have been taken, including the adoption of a national programme to combat human trafficking and the establishment of a system to monitor its implementation, the number of cases is on the rise.

16. The Mongolian National Security Council considered the issue of human trafficking in March 2011. Mongolia intends to take legal, administrative and other necessary measures to combat the challenge and to raise, in partnership with non-governmental organizations, public awareness about human trafficking. The assistance and cooperation of international organizations and other Member States are of particular importance in that regard.

17. Food security remains an important issue in Mongolia, not only due to the negative impacts of global climate change and environmental degradation but also because of its own specific national challenges. The process of desertification is increasing and now covers almost 72 per cent of the country's territory. Mongolia is highly dependent on the import of major consumer goods (over 70 per cent of main consumer goods are imported). Therefore, Mongolia attaches priority importance to ensuring food security and safety through the implementation of programmes and projects. In 2011, with the support and assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Mongolia drafted and adopted a national programme on food security. Over 20 programmes and projects aimed at promoting food supply, ensuring food safety and security are being implemented at the national and regional levels. Additionally, 16 projects are being implemented with the support of FAO, other international organizations and donor countries.

18. Issues related to food production, food supply and security were discussed at a national forum on food security in Mongolia, held on 24 June 2011. Representatives of all stakeholders, including research institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations participated in the forum, which made recommendations for the Government.

19. The protection and strengthening of its environmental security is another important pillar of Mongolia's national security. The national security concept provides that maintaining an ecological balance, protecting water resources, mitigating the impact of climate change and land degradation, and preventing harm from a variety of biological issues, for example, by reducing risks of environment pollution, natural disasters and adversities, shall all be prerequisites for securing the health and security of human beings and for preserving the natural environment.

20. Mongolia faces many challenges in achieving its development goals. They are coupled with environmental problems such as climate change, desertification, pasture degradation, natural disasters, droughts, water and forest resource depletion, air and soil pollution, and the *dzud*. The *dzud* is a natural phenomenon consisting of a summer drought, resulting in insufficient production of feed for livestock, followed by severe winter conditions. Such issues negatively affect the livelihood, health and well-being of nomadic herders and Mongolians at large. Increasing consumption, economic growth and the growing development of the mining sector are intensifying the pressure on nature and the environment. Sound policies and joint efforts are both essential in solving those challenges.

21. Over the past two years, Mongolia has continued its efforts to address environmental security challenges through the establishment and expansion of its legal framework, the organization of meetings and round-table discussions, and the implementation of national programmes and projects with the support and cooperation of UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other international organizations or donor countries. On 2 February 2011, the Parliament of Mongolia adopted the Law on Reducing the Air Pollution in the

Capital City. With the adoption of a package of laws on environment protection at its 2012 spring session, 17 per cent of the country's territory comes under the special protection of the State.

22. Over 25 national programmes on nature and on environment-related issues have been implemented in Mongolia. In 2010, Mongolia started the implementation of national programmes on water protection and combating desertification. In 2011 Parliament adopted a national programme on climate change.

23. Mongolia prepared for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) by tasking a team of national experts to review progress in the implementation of Mongolia's Agenda 21. The team reviewed the achievements, remaining gaps and challenges and opportunities for sustainable development. As part of its preparations for Rio+20, on 22 and 23 May 2012, Mongolia hosted the 4th Asia-Europe Environment Ministers Meeting on sustainable water and forest management.

24. The protection of national interests in the field of information and guaranteeing information integrity, confidentiality and availability for the State, citizens and private organizations form the basis for ensuring information security. The national programme on ensuring information security for the period 2010-2015 was adopted on 2 June 2010. The four main goals of the programme are to create the legal environment for ensuring information security; to reduce the vulnerability of information security and establish a system of counter measures; to build a culture of information and communication service users, improve the knowledge and education of citizens, develop human resources and create conditions favourable for public-private partnership; and to develop a system of State information security.

25. In order to promote further the implementation of the programme, a conference on theoretical and practical issues of information security was organized on 28 April 2011. At that conference, recommendations were adopted on measures to be undertaken by the State, the Government, information and communication agencies and all other relevant organizations in the public and private sectors. Emphasis was put on facilitating the process of creating the necessary legal environment for ensuring citizens' rights to information, and information and communication security. Currently, the process of drafting a law on cyber security is under way.

26. Since the previous report, Mongolia has continued its cooperation with the specialized agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and with other international organizations to address its economic, ecological vulnerabilities and human security based, inter alia, on the conclusions and recommendations of two studies undertaken jointly in 2004 with the Department for Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Mongolia country office of UNDP. The findings and recommendations of the studies were incorporated into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the period 2007-2011 and for 2012-2016, and into the National Development Strategy for 2008-2021.

27. Important policy recommendations are also provided in the fifth Human Development Report on Mongolia entitled *From Vulnerability to Sustainability: Environment and Human Development*, prepared in 2011 with the support of UNDP and the Swedish International Development Agency. In his foreword, the Prime Minister of Mongolia highlighted that the conclusions and recommendations

contained in the Human Development Report were of great value for the country, in that they highlighted how Mongolia could strengthen, and move forward with, its progress and achievements in human development, especially as it had stepped on the new path of resource-based dynamic development.

28. Dozens of projects supporting the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/70 have been successfully implemented with the support and cooperation of various organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and donor countries. They include, inter alia, a joint project by UNDP and the Government of Luxembourg on strengthening the disaster mitigation and management system in Mongolia; a joint UNDP/UNEP project on strengthening environmental governance in Mongolia; a joint project between the Netherlands, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and UNDP on sustainable land management for combating desertification in Mongolia; and two joint programmes between UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund on water and sanitation and on comprehensive community services to improve human security for the rural disadvantaged population.

29. With the support and cooperation of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, a multilateral agreement on the establishment in Ulaanbaatar of an international think tank on landlocked developing countries was adopted by Member States in September 2010.

30. Mongolia hosts four stations of the International Monitoring System Network (seismological station PS25, radionuclide station RN 45, infrasound station IS34 and a noble gas SPALAX station). In addition to their primary function related to the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, they bring scientific and civil benefits for the country. The cutting-edge equipment installed at the stations has contributed significantly to the geophysics and seismology research carried out in Mongolia and to research in other relevant fields.

31. In 2011, Mongolia marked the fiftieth anniversary of its membership in the United Nations. It has become one of the most active Member States, taking an increasingly important role in the areas of preventative diplomacy and peacekeeping, and in dealing with such global challenges as climate change and the needs of landlocked developing countries. With its overall success in the transition to democracy and a market economy, Mongolia has become a role model for many developing countries. Mongolia has assumed the presidency of the Community of Democracies for the period 2011-2013.

32. The United Nations continued its support for electoral capacity-building in the country. Since 2008, UNDP has provided assistance to build the capacity of the General Election Commission of Mongolia, focusing on promoting women's political participation, strengthening the professional capacity of the Commission and facilitating electoral legislation reform and conflict prevention.

33. From 3 to 8 November 2011, the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs carried out a needs assessment mission to Mongolia. Its objective was to review progress in implementing the existing electoral support project and to assess the needs, feasibility and advisability of United Nations electoral assistance for the period 2012-2016. The mission found broad enthusiasm

and support for continued and increased United Nations electoral assistance. In line with the recommendations of the needs assessment mission, UNDP, in cooperation with the Government of Mongolia, developed a project to support election administration, in order to enhance the capacity of the General Election Committee and the credibility of the electoral process in preparation for the parliamentary elections of 2012.

34. The United Nations has provided significant support to the people and the Government of Mongolia in responding to natural disasters, especially during the *dzud* crisis that started in December 2009, the effects of which continue to challenge herder populations. As of June 2010, 8.1 million livestock have perished and 43,555 people have lost all their livestock, causing serious challenges to the survival and economic security of the vulnerable populations whose livelihoods mostly depend on livestock. More than 28 per cent of the population, or approximately 769,100 people or 217,150 families, have been affected by the *dzud*.

35. In order to mitigate the human impact of the *dzud*, United Nations agencies based in Mongolia, including UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and FAO, have provided relief items and services, such as food, nutrition, education and medical supplies. In addition, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has granted $3.7 million to those agencies from the Central Emergency Response Fund to meet the most immediate and critical needs.

36. On 12 May 2010, the United Nations country team in Mongolia and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs assisted the Government of Mongolia in launching a *dzud* appeal, which covers health, survival, food, water, sanitation and nutrition; education; agriculture; and early recovery. The appeal was used as a key strategic planning and coordination document that facilitates resource mobilization against the total target of $18 million. As of June 2010, the appeal had only collected 7.6 per cent of that target, leaving a funding gap of $16.8 million. Mongolia is also implementing the recommendations from the 2004 preparedness assessment mission of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team, with a view to increasing the level of response preparedness for future disasters.

37. Building upon recommendations made by its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in February 2010, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will convene a workshop and initial contingency planning exercise with a view to providing assistance in the local familiarization, configuration and implementation of the cluster approach in Mongolia. The Regional Office is also in the process of conceptualizing an exercise on lessons learned in order to capture valuable experiences and best practices based on the response to the ongoing and previous *dzud* events and to ensure a higher degree of preparedness before the next winter.

38. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs considers it important to address the root causes of the *dzud* so as to avoid a repetition of related crises in the future. A general consensus has emerged that the effects of the *dzud* are mainly a development challenge and that use of humanitarian instruments as a short-term solution is not optimal and could even be counterproductive. With the aim of placing the human-made component of the situation at the centre of analysis, the following factors should be further examined:

(a) Lack of sustainable pasture management;

(b) Lack of adequate numbers and operation of pasture water points and wells;

(c) Lack of adequate supplies and piled stock animal food, including hay and fodder;

(d) Lack of winter protection for animals;

(e) Too many animals.

39. In addition, there is a strong need to step up support for Mongolia in mobilizing development assistance that addresses the ecological and economic causes of the *dzud*. In that regard, the United Nations works closely with the Government of Mongolia, especially in applying the concept of human security. Based on the human security approach, the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security has implemented six projects in Mongolia, spending a total of $8.53 million, covering such issues as primary health care, education, livelihood assistance and the environment. The most recent project, on promoting social equality in the Gobi areas of southern Mongolia by fostering human security with integrated and prevention approaches, for which $2.78 million has been allocated, is aimed at alleviating social inequality related to serious poverty and climate change in order to enhance human security through integrated, multisectoral and preventative measures.

40. The Mongolia country programme of UNDP for the period 2012-2016, which was approved in 2011, is aligned with three thematic areas based on national priorities: (a) poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; (b) democratic governance; and (c) environment and sustainable development.

41. Through the Mongolia country programme of UNDP, Mongolia supports the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/70 by focusing on economic development, sustainable development and disaster preparedness.

42. In order to promote inclusive growth and build resilience, UNDP supports Mongolia in strengthening economic security at both the national and community levels. Its interventions, which aim to support the capacity of the Government to address disparities, vulnerabilities and persistent poverty through evidence-based policymaking, planning and monitoring, include the following:

(a) UNDP support has created wide awareness of the Millennium Development Goals and the concept of human development among policymakers and civil society, and the Goals have been integrated into national policies and plans. UNDP support focuses on national capacity development to formulate, implement and monitor policies and programmes aimed at putting Goal 1 on track. UNDP further supports the Government through poverty mapping, strengthening capacity for data analysis and the development of an integrated macroeconomic model to enhance the Government's capacity for evidence-based policymaking;

(b) UNDP will also support the Government's efforts to improve alignment between short-term (annual) budget planning and mid- and longer-term development objectives, through the development of planning guidelines and strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation framework. Innovative concepts such as microinsurance and loan guarantee schemes contributing to the strengthening of social protection mechanisms have already been introduced in the country, with support from UNDP;

(c) Vulnerable groups, in particular women, have benefited directly from UNDP support to small and medium-size enterprise development. At the community level, UNDP supports the expansion of business opportunities for small, medium-sized and micro-entrepreneurs in rural and urban areas;

(d) UNDP will also continue to support Mongolia in its global and regional cooperation initiatives, such as the establishment of the think tank on landlocked developing countries and the Greater Tumen Initiative;

(e) In the area of extractive industries, UNDP and the Government of Mongolia co-organized an international conference on managing extractive industries for human development in 2011. Representatives of national Governments, civil society, private companies, bilateral donors and international organizations participated in a series of discussions covering many of the central management issues facing resource-rich countries, including spending and investment policies, revenue management systems, conflict prevention, governance arrangements, environmental impacts and managing the "Dutch disease".

43. In order to maintain ecological balance and long-term sustainable development, UNDP supports Mongolia in a range of environmental programmes:

(a) UNDP has supported national and local capacity development for the sustainable use of land, water and forest resources; environmental governance; access to priority environmental services and policy coordination; and monitoring of policies and legislation for implementation of international conventions. Going forward, UNDP will also support the capacity development of non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate their increased role in environmental management, especially in rural areas;

(b) Mongolia has reformed several environmental laws, with UNDP support. Going forward, special attention will be paid to monitoring compliance with environmental legislation;

(c) UNDP is also supporting landscape-level planning to ensure the sustainable management of pastureland, water and forest resources and the conservation of biodiversity;

(d) In the area of climate change adaptation and mitigation, UNDP will support the Government in the implementation of national action programmes for climate change and combating desertification, the development of nationally appropriate mitigation actions and capacity development of the nascent Climate Change Coordination Authority. UNDP will also support the enhancement of existing methodologies to improve the accuracy of the national greenhouse gas inventory. In its work, UNDP will prioritize the demonstration of sound adaptation measures to maintain ecosystem functionality and minimize the vulnerabilities of local communities, including the protection and sustainable management of forest assets, which, considering Mongolia's considerable size of boreal forest, may produce globally significant lessons;

(e) For biodiversity conservation, UNDP will support the Government in the introduction of a new category of protected areas with managed resources, along with self-sustaining financing options for such areas;

(f) UNDP continues to support energy efficiency in the building sector, as a long-term measure for the abatement of air pollution and the reduction of emissions.

To promote energy conservation and better water and sanitation technologies, support has also been provided to update the system of building codes, norms and standards;

(g) Additionally, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies, UNDP is supporting the capacity of State and non-State actors to deliver safe drinking water and improved sanitation services.

44. UNDP has for some time supported the Government of Mongolia in the area of disaster risk management, which is directly linked to national security planning:

(a) Much of the initial focus of UNDP disaster risk management support was on improving national capacities for emergency response and on the formulation of a national programme on disaster prevention and national climate risk management strategy;

(b) Going forward, UNDP will continue to support the coordination of national, local and international structures for disaster preparedness and response, with differentiated approaches for urban and rural disasters and hazards and consideration of a potential role for volunteers in disaster preparedness and response;

(c) UNDP also continues to work with herder communities to promote disaster risk reduction; land, water and forest management; and biodiversity conservation at the local level.

45. UNEP continues to work with its Mongolian partners to promote ecological balance through the development of sound environmental policy and climate change management at the country level. In support of the "Delivering as one" agenda, UNEP has prepared a United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Mongolia for the period 2012-2016 and in 2010 signed a joint UNDP/UNEP project agreement on strengthening environmental governance in Mongolia with the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism. UNEP also supported the terminal ch'orofluorocarbons phase-out management plan, which was completed successfully and which ensures country compliance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. UNEP is supporting the implementation of the hydrochlorofluorocarbons phase-out management plan in cooperation with the Government of Japan; the plan was approved in April of 2011 and will assist Mongolia in achieving compliance with the hydrochlorofluorocarbons control targets set for 2013, 2015 and 2020.

46. UNEP also currently provides annual funding under the Institutional Strengthening Project to support the National Ozone Authority for the daily coordination of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. In 2011, with technical and financial support from UNEP, the Mongolia Water Authority, a special agency of the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism, completed an integrated assessment of urban water vulnerability to climate change in Mongolia and developed policy options for Ulaanbataar and other urban centres to incorporate adaptation measures into both water supply and demand management plans. UNEP has also worked to promote the harmonization of Mongolia's environmental legislative framework, environmental mainstreaming and a resource mobilization strategy for environmental non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations in the country.

47. Other UNEP activities include working with the Government of Mongolia to access Global Environment Facility funding in support of projects such as on enhancing the resilience of pastoral ecosystems and livelihoods of nomadic herders, and use of the UNEP "One United Nations" funding to support development by the Mongolian Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of a national strategy on green economy. Additional planning for 2012 involves organizing training on climate adaptation in North-East Asia regarding technologies for climate change adaptation.

48. As one of the landlocked developing countries, Mongolia has specific needs and problems due to its disadvantaged geographical location, including its lack of coastline to the sea, remoteness and isolation from major international markets and high transport costs.

49. In the framework of the Almaty Declaration and Almaty Programme of Action, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States has continued to give its support to landlocked developing countries, including Mongolia, with a view to raising awareness and mobilizing international support and resources for the effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

50. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States provided substantive support to the group of landlocked developing countries, at the initiative of Mongolia, in developing an intergovernmental agreement on the establishment in Ulaanbaatar of an international think tank on landlocked developing countries. The think tank will provide a centre of excellence for high quality research and policy advice, will contribute to further strengthening the analytical capacities of landlocked developing countries and will fully harness the potential of trade as an engine of sustained economic growth and development. The multilateral agreement was adopted by Member States in September 2010 and the Secretary-General accepted to be its depositary. By 31 October 2011, seven countries were able to sign the agreement. Member countries have been invited to deposit instruments of accession in order to become party to the agreement. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, together with the Government of Mongolia, is working with international organizations, including UNDP, the World Bank, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions, donor countries and other leading international centres of excellence in advancing the operationalization of the think tank.

51. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will also continue to mobilize and coordinate international support, in particular from the United Nations system, through its coordination mechanism, and other international organizations, with a view to strengthening Mongolia's capacity in key areas of trade and transit policy formulation, trade and transit negotiations, and trade and transport facilitation, by promoting South-South, regional and subregional dialogue and cooperation and knowledge-sharing.

52. The IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme contributes to Mongolia's economic security and sustainable development. IAEA is a member of the United Nations country team, which cooperates with the Government of Mongolia. The

strategic direction and results expected from such cooperation for 2012-2016 are outlined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. IAEA contributions are specifically included in the third strategic priority, "Environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction", under outcome 8, "Reduced risks and consequences of natural and man-made disasters at national and community levels".

53. With the support of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme, Mongolia has prepared and adopted a general action plan on cancer prevention and control for the period 2011-2021 and a strategic plan for the development of radiotherapy for the period 2011-2021, both of which foresee the expansion of the National Cancer Centre located in Ulaanbaatar. In 2010, Mongolia became the eighth model demonstration site within the framework of the IAEA Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy.

IV. Conclusion

54. As described in the present report, Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status is being consolidated and institutionalized and has gained wide recognition. Mongolia has made progress towards institutionalizing its status and has undertaken discussions with the five nuclear-weapon States towards the conclusion of a legal instrument.

55. Furthermore, various United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes have provided assistance to Mongolia in responding to the developmental, ecological, economic, humanitarian and human security consequences of the most recent incidence of the *dzud* and towards mitigating the effects of severe weather phenomena.

56. The Secretary-General hopes that the assistance provided by the United Nations will further contribute to consolidating Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and assist the country in effectively addressing the current ecological crisis and achieving sustainable development and balanced growth, as well as reinforcing its efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.